

sympathise with Keber, by repeating with him in conclusion the words of the great embryologist Von Baer:—

“The future still reserves rewards for more than one observer; but the palm will only belong to him who shall be fortunate enough in regard to the forces which preside in the formation of the animal body to determine their place amongst the general forces which govern the system of the world. The tree from which the cradle of this man will be made, has not yet germinated in the forest.”

XXXVI.—*Another Note on Scissurella.*

By S. P. WOODWARD, F.G.S.

*To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN,

WHEN a naturalist thinks he has discovered an error in your pages, he is bound in courtesy to communicate his suspicions to the *author*—rather than the *editor*—that he may have an opportunity of putting himself right. I am compelled for once to depart from this practice, because I have protested in vain against the publication of the mistake.

The distribution of Mr. Jeffreys' Mediterranean shells was entrusted to Mr. R. Damon of Weymouth, who kindly sent me examples of *Scissurella elegans*. In these specimens I observed, and pointed out to Mr. Jeffreys, the conversion of the *fissure* into a *foramen* when the shell became adult; a circumstance which, like the operculum, had escaped his observation. I proposed, in accordance with modern practice, to give a *subgeneric* name to the species exhibiting this character; but on referring to Philippi, and Sowerby (Zool. Journ. 1824), I found it was already known, and existed in the species which Sowerby regarded as typical.

I was, therefore, rather astonished when Mr. Jeffreys told me, some time after, that he had written an article for the 'Annals,' adopting the notion I had discarded, and seeking to justify it by the testimony of persons unacquainted with the facts of the case. I urged him to refer to D'Orbigny's original paper in the Memoirs of the Natural History Society of Paris for 1823, but he declined taking the trouble, adding that I could do it.

In this Memoir the genus *Scissurella* was first described, and illustrated by large figures. The first and second species, *S. levigata* and *costata*, were found living on sea-weed; the others, *S. decussata* and *elegans*, were obtained from the newest tertiary sands of Castel Arquato, in the Plaisantin. In the year 1844, M. Philippi figured two other *recent* species, *S. plicata*

and *striatula*, which are considered identical with D'Orbigny's *S. costata* and *elegans*. I believe the whole six are varieties of one species; and at all events the type of Mr. Jeffreys' new genus is a typical *Scissurella*. There is some difficulty about the species called *elator* and *concinna* in Sowerby's 'Genera of Shells,' but they are probably synonymous with some of the varieties before described: there is no species of *Scissurella* in the "Calcaire grossier," nor any *extinct* species known, as I told Mr. Jeffreys before he published his article.

If the genus *Scissurella* was incompletely described by M. D'Orbigny in 1823, it was certainly made good by Mr. G. Sowerby in 1824; and my friend Mr. Henry Adams, to whom I have submitted the question, quite agrees with me, that we have no alternative but to regard Mr. Jeffreys' new genus as an *exact synonym* of *Scissurella*.

Should it prove that in the British *Scissurella crispata*, and some others, the slit is never closed, Mr. Jeffreys may reimburse himself by proposing a new name for this section. It is true that Philippi, Adams, and M'Coy have adopted Montfort's name *Anatomus*, but without sufficient reason; for the "*Anatomus Indicus*" is represented like a *Skenea*, or *Valvata spirorbis*, and the slit is in the *lower margin* of the lip: it may be the fry of a Nucleobranch, or altogether apocryphal.

The name *Pleurotomaria* (Defrance, 1821) has better claims, and a species is really found in the Paris basin; but it is a large *pearly* shell, and I think Prof. Forbes was right in hesitating to associate with it the little translucent *Scissurella*.

S. P. WOODWARD.

Barnsbury, April 1856.

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XXXVII.—On the Occurrence of the Fossil Genus *Conoteuthis*, D'Orb., in England. By S. P. WOODWARD, F.G.S.

THE rich collection of Mr. Bowerbank contains a specimen of *Conoteuthis*, obtained by himself from the Gault of East-ware Bay, Folkestone. It is an oblique, chambered cone, curved rather suddenly near the apex, and measures 6 lines in diameter by the same in height. The dorsal side is 8 lines in length, and has a slight ridge towards which the lines of growth are curved, and become longitudinal, showing that when perfect there was a projecting process on this side. The *septa* have simple margins, and the last eight occupy a space of four lines; the apex is not solid.

The type of this genus, *C. Dupinianus*, D'Orb., occurs in the Lower Greensand (*Aptien*) of France; it is of the same size, but